

Maquoketa  
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## 108-3 'Great Places' designated

State Rep. Tom Schueller of Maquoketa said this week he is pleased that two local groups, Jackson County and the Limestone Bluffs Resource Conservation and Development Area, submitted invitations to receive one of three pilot "Great Places" designations.

"The people involved in these projects are dedicated to making our area a better place to live," said Schueller.

"The overwhelming response to the Great Places program proves that Iowans are proud of their communities and want to improve the quality of life for everyone.

"I'm thrilled that Jackson County and Limestone Bluffs RC&D have applied to be involved in the Great Places program."

The Great Places initiative is designed to bring together the resources of state govern-

ment to improve communities by cultivating their unique and authentic qualities.

After a series of public forums explaining the initiative, 145 communities across Iowa submitted invitations to become one of three pilot Great Places.

"I think the Great Places program is a great idea that can make state government a partner with local communities to make our state a better place to live," Schueller added.

Great Places "coaches" will now work with each community to get their offers ready for a final selection presentation in September. By Oct. 1, a citizen advisory council appointed by Gov. Tom Vilsack will help select the three pilot Great Places.

Negotiation of partnership agreements with those places will take place through the fall, with final agreements by Dec. 31, 2005.